

I would like to register my strong opinion concerning Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. I'm beginning to wonder if the FCC has completely abdicated their regulatory responsibility to insure that the stations that utilize the PUBLIC airwaves serve the PUBLIC interest. To force individual stations to air such a partisan piece without providing the opposing view feels very much like corporate takeover of the political process. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, as well as a classic feature of fascism.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.